

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

11 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 11 June 1969

\*The Director opened the meeting by asking [ ] what responsibilities the Watch Committee has with respect to a possible Soviet/ChiCom clash on their border area. [ ] replied that the situation is certainly within the Watch Committee's cognizance. The Director emphasized that the situation deserves very careful attention and asked that the Watch Committee report on it regularly in its publications. DDCI noted [ ]

[ ] DD/I noted receipt of the DD/P's memorandum on the situation and said that it is being analyzed by Bruce Clarke and others. DD/P called attention to [ ] reporting that high-ranking Czech officers hold the view that the Soviet Union is planning a preventative war against Communist China. D/ONE commented that some time ago he and others had an informal session with Marshall Green to consider an earlier paper on the Sino/Soviet border dispute. The Director asked that this situation be given very careful attention and that we publish regularly on it. In passing, the Director noted last night's editorial in the Washington Star, "A Sino-Soviet War?"

Godfrey noted that the Vietnamese Communists have announced the creation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. He mentioned that they prepared and distributed a memorandum analyzing this new front and commented on its principals.

DD/S reported that yesterday we turned out ninety employees against a requirement of 150 to appear at the White House in connection with welcome home ceremonies for the President.

Carver noted that initial analysis of the personalities named in the Provisional Revolutionary Government indicates that they are indeed mostly Communist Party members or officials.

Maury noted press attention given to DOD's release of a "white paper" on the ABM and observed that it must be based on Secretary

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Laird's testimony before two Subcommittees of the House Committee on Appropriations. He noted that there are several mentions of classified information in the printed hearings entitled Safeguard Antiballistic Missile System. The Director asked that a copy of this document be made available to the DD/I for rapid review. DD/S&T briefed on how the DOD might have deduced that Russia is testing an ABM weapon which can "loiter" but made it clear that we have not described the weapon in this fashion.

DD/S&T reported that Dr. Foster has invited him to sit in on some of his sessions with DIA briefers and that he will be attending the first such briefing this afternoon. The Director encouraged the DD/S&T to take advantage of this invitation.

[Redacted Signature]

L. K. White

\*Extracted and sent to action officer

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## *A Sino-Soviet War?*

Ominous is the word for the current exchange of invective between Red China and the Soviet Union. It all sounds as if a major shooting war could break out at any moment.

This possibility, if not probability, has been burgeoning from day to day ever since the bloody encounters on the Ussuri River a few months ago. Peking now charges that the clashes—ranging over an 800-mile sector of the 4,000-mile Sino-Soviet frontier—are still occurring. Both by land and air attack, according to the Chinese, the Russians have been taking “grave steps . . . to aggravate tension” as they carry out the “crime” of an “imperialist policy of aggression.”

These charges are harsh, but no more so than those emanating from Moscow at the international Communist congress. Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet party chief, has answered them with portentous counter-accusations. Mao Tse-tung, he has thundered, is not only trying to dominate world communism, but is also getting ready for a conventional and a “great nuclear war” against the USSR. To that end, in Brezhnev’s

words, the Chinese people are being brainwashed with the thought that they have a “messianic role” to play “in the spirit of chauvinism and vicious anti-Sovietism.” Further, Peking’s current slogan is this: “Be hungry and prepare for war”—against the Russians.

Reading between the lines, one can conclude from all this that the Kremlin conceivably may have decided that Red China is not only an insufferable ideological foe, but also a real and present military danger. And one can go on from that possibility to the speculation that Brezhnev’s words may add up to a grim hint that the Russians are toying with the idea of launching a preventive war against Mao’s China before it has a chance to build up its present primitive missile and nuclear arsenal.

The idea must surely appeal, more than a little bit, to the Soviet military. In any event, speculative as the situation is, there can be no doubt that the Russian and Chinese Communist giants are on a course that may yet lead—possibly all of a sudden—to a collision between them that could rock and change the entire world.